

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



June 23, 1981

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-78-81

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: SB 633 IMPACT ON IHSS

REFERENCE:

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the status of implementation of the In-Home Supportive Services provisions of SB 633. As you may know SB 633 was the vehicle for establishing the 1981/82 cost of living adjustments for income maintenance grants. To fund the grant increases a series of program reductions were made.

The effect of this legislation on the IHSS program is substantial. The highlights of the changes are:

- The eligibility standard for the program has been changed to clarify that services are available only to persons who cannot safely maintain an independent living arrangement. The previous "comfort and safety" standard was eliminated.
- Where a spouse is available and able, the law requires that no need be found for any service except non-medical personal care or paramedical.
- Specific cost containment mechanisms to enable counties to operate the program within their allocation.
- Establishes a 10% county share of cost for program expenditures in excess of the 1980/81 level up to the amount appropriated.
- Restricts State General Fund involvement to the amount annually appropriated.
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|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| SI maximum | \$838.00 |
| NSI maximum | \$581.00 |
| Restaurant Meal Allowance | \$ 47.00 (individual) |
| | \$ 94.00 (couples) |

The IHSS budget item has been substantially reduced in recognition of the financial effects of these statutory changes. Clearly a rapid and well-planned implementation is essential to realizing the needed savings while minimizing any adverse impact on

persons dependent on the program.

To accomplish this, the Department is taking the following actions:

- Development and promulgation of emergency implementation regulations- County staff input was solicited to provide comments on our draft package. The emergency regulations will be issued by July 1, 1981.
- Data collection to assess SB 633 impact - State staff have already begun collecting service award and spouse data in order that we can better understand the impact of SB 633 and formulate policy decisions.
- County Plan Requirements - Several tasks in this area are underway. The actual plan document is currently in draft and will be issued with allocations. It will address those actions necessary for SB 633 compliance. Also, staff is working on training materials and county guide for implementation. This will include a monitoring process so that progress towards full implementation can be evaluated.
- Allocation Formula - No decisions have been made regarding this area. We are hopeful, however, that allocations will be available in early July.

As you can see, there has already been a great deal of work initiated on developing an organized SB 633 implementation. I am sure you also recognize that there is much yet to do with little time available. Be assured that we will try to keep you informed as to our efforts and that we appreciate the cooperation we have been receiving.

If you have any questions regarding SB 633 implementation as it relates to the IHSS program, please contact your Adult Services Program Operations Bureau consultant.


JAMES H. GOMEZ
Deputy Director